

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



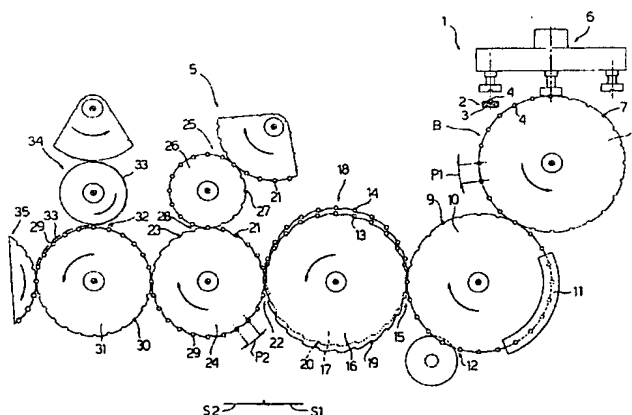
(43) International Publication Date
8 January 2004 (08.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/002246 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A24C**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/IT2003/000405**
- (22) International Filing Date: **27 June 2003 (27.06.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
BO2002A000412 **28 June 2002 (28.06.2002)** **IT**
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **G.D. SOCIETA' PER AZIONI [IT/IT];** Via Battindamo, 91, I-40133 Bologna (IT).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DRAGHETTI, Firenze [IT/IT];** Via San Donino, 506, Frazione Villafontana, I-40059 Medicina (IT). **GIUNTA, Gabriele [IT/IT];** Via Lavino, 387/1, I-40050 Monte San Pietro (IT). **RIZZOLI, Salvatore [IT/IT];** Via Galeazza, 21, I-40100 Bologna (IT).
- (74) Agents: **JORIO, Paolo et al.;** c/o Studio Torta S.R.L., Via Viotti, 9, I-10121 Torino (IT).
- (81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**
- (84) Designated States (regional): **ARIPO** patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), **Eurasian** patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), **European** patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), **OAPI** patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **METHOD OF PRODUCING FILTER-TIPPED CIGARETTES**



(57) **Abstract:** An orderly succession of first tobacco articles (4), each defined by a double cigarette portion, is fed, with a first pitch (P1), to a first portion (S1) of a path (B) along a filter assembly machine (5); as they travel along the first portion, the first articles (4) are cut into respective pairs of portions (13, 14), and the portions in each pair are spaced axially and then fed along a second portion (S2) of the path (B); as they travel along the second portion, the portion (13, 14) in each pair are separated by the interposition of a double filter (21) to form a succession of second articles (29), each defined by the relative pair of portions (13, 14) and by the relative interposed double filter (21); a respective strip (33) being applied, by rolling, to each second article (29) to connect the pair of portions (13, 14) and the double filter (21) and form a third article (40) defined by a double cigarette; and the first articles (4) being subjected to a pitch reduction to assume, along the first portion (S1) of the path, a second pitch (P2) shorter than the first pitch (P1) and of a length approximately equal to but no shorter than the length of the relative strip (33).

WO 2004/002246 A2